



ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 040894-5687

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Satoshi NAKAMURA et al.

Application No.: 09/896,111

Filed: July 2, 2001

For: BATTERY PACK AND BATTERY CASE
USED FOR THE SAME, AND METHOD
FOR PRODUCING THE SAME

Group Art Unit: 2827

Examiner: J. Norris

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In response to the Restriction Requirement forwarded by the Office Action dated October 2, 2002, Applicants hereby provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-4 and 6-10, drawn to a printed circuit board.

Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1-4 and 6-10 (Group I of the Office Action) are directed to a printed circuit board. Claims 5 and 11 (Group II of the Office Action) are directed to a method for manufacturing a circuit board.

This election is made with traverse only in so far as the subject matter of all claims 1-11 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one group would necessarily encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining group.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be performed without serious burden. M.P.E.P. §803 clearly states that "if the search and

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examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes two distinct or independent inventions." It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to the Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the Restriction Requirement and to examine all claims in this application.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

Date: October 29, 2002

By: 

Peter J. Sistare

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